

Claims:

1. A torque converter comprising:

a pump having an annular pump shell mounted on a pump hub supported in a housing so as to rotate, and a plurality of impellers radially arranged in the pump shell;

a turbine having an annular turbine shell arranged facing the pump and mounted on a turbine hub which rotates relative to the pump hub, and a plurality of runners radially arranged in the turbine shell;

a stator arranged between the pump and the turbine and is supported by the housing; and

an operation fluid filled in the pump and in the turbine;

wherein transmission torque limit means is arranged between the stator and the housing to so limit the transmission of torque transmitted to the stator from the pump through the turbine as will not to increase in excess of a predetermined value.

2. A torque converter according to claim 1, wherein the transmission torque limit means comprises a one-way clutch supported by the housing and a torque limiter arranged between the one-way clutch and the stator, the stator is fixed to the housing through the torque limiter and the one-way clutch when the transmission of torque is not exceeding the predetermined value, and the stator runs idle relative to the one-way clutch due to the operation of the torque limiter when the transmission of torque is going to increase in excess of the predetermined value.